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Message Text

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64
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

RSR-01 /105 W
---------- 001564
R 041350Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3455
INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6478

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, AR, (LOPEZ REGA)
SUBJECT: LOPEZ REGA'S POSITION

REF: BA-6348, BA-6469

1. SUMMARY: LOPEZ REGA MAY BE HAVING HIS TROUBLES, BUT HE CONTINUES TO APPEAR AT PERON'S RIGHT HAND. END SUMMARY.

2. THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT LOPEZ REGA IS ON HIS WAY OUT. HIS POSITION WAS PROBABLY NOT HELPED BY THE RESIGNATION LAST WEEK OF THIRD WORLD PRIEST CARLOS MUGICA, WHO LEFT THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE CHARGING THAT LOPEZ REGA "WAS NOT INTERESTED IN PROVIDING HOUSING FOR THE POOR." IN AN INTERVIEW FROM ENTRE RIOS ON AUG 28, LOPEZ REGA REPLIED THAT HE WAS AS INTERESTED AS MUGICA IN THE WELFARE OF THE POOR BUT THAT HE LIVED IN THE WORLD OF REALITY WHERE ONE'S ACTIONS WERE LIMITED BY THE RESOURCES WITH WHICH ONE HAD TO WORK. HE FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT MUGICA MAY HAVE IMPROPERLY DISBURSED FUNDS AND THAT AN AUDIT OF HIS ACCOUNTS WOULD BE CONDUCTED.

3. IN THE SAME INTERVIEW, LOPEZ REGA ANSWERED WITH SARCASM QUESTIONS CONCERNING HIS OWN POSITION. IF HE HAD LOST PERON'S
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FAVOR, AS SOME ALLEGED, WHY WAS PERON SENDING HIM TO ALGIERS AS

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HIS REPRESENTATIVE, LOPEZ REGA ASKED?

4. AND, IN FACT, PERON CONTINUES TO SHOW MARKED FAVOR TO LOPEZ REGA. THE LATTER WAS AT PERON'S RIGHT HAND DURING THE AUG 31 DEMONSTRATION-PARADA (SEE BA-6469), AND WHEN LOPEZ REGA DEPARTED FOR MADRID, SUPPOSEDLY EN ROUTE TO ALGIERS, ON SEP 2, PERON, PRESIDENT LASTIRI AND MINISTER OF ECONOMY GELBARD WERE ALL AT THE AIRPORT TO SEE HIM OFF.

5. COMMENT: IN SUM, THE EVIDENCE IS CONTRADICTORY AND FRAG-MENTARY. SO FAR, HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT LOPEZ REGA HAS BEEN SENT TO COVENTRY--AT LEAST, NOT PERMANENTLY.
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